

Supervisor Knabe Looks Back on Year as Chairman

I'd like to begin by thanking my colleagues for the opportunity to serve as Chairman of the Board of Supervisors. I would also like to thank the Executive Office for all their hard work over the last year, as well as the Chief Administrative Office and all the Departments.

It's been a challenging year to say the least, but we've made it through. We started the year with threats to our budget by Sacramento and the potential loss of the VLF and property taxes. We lost the VLF and then we had it back and then we lost it again and it was restored again. Our budget situation was changing by the minute, literally, which kept us busy through the holiday season and the beginning of the year.

As a result, local governments banded together like never before to protect local dollars from another state grab. We got Prop 1A on the ballot and won the support of the Governor. The people overwhelmingly passed Prop 1A in the November election and the County's funding should be better secured for years to come.

As a County we began to address the workers' comp crisis which was costing the County millions of dollars a year and skyrocketing out of control. The cost of workers' compensation for all State of California employers increased from \$9 billion in 1995 to \$29 billion in 2003. As an employer, the County of Los Angeles also experienced workers' compensation cost escalation.



To mitigate such escalation, the Board of Supervisors consolidated its workers' compensation claims adjusting and loss control programs; and, during the past 14 months, vigorously supported fair and meaningful reforms to the State of California workers' compensation system.

Under the direction of the Board of Supervisors, County staff provided leadership in the 2003 and 2004 workers' compensation reform efforts and continue to draft regulatory language in support of the reforms. Once fully implemented, the reforms will save the County of Los Angeles tax payers at least \$50 million each year. Although the reforms have not been fully

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Employee of the Month Chief Administrative Offices' Philip Ow

With a County career spanning over 30 years, Phillip Ow is currently a Program Specialist III in the Loss Control and Prevention Section of the Chief Administrative Office's Risk Management Branch. His duties include working with County departments to identify and control their workers' compensation and liability costs, correct workplace safety hazards, and improve employee productivity and well-being through a safe and healthy work environment.

Before it was fashionable, Phil stressed the importance of having properly designed ergonomically correct computer work stations. As a member of the Los Angeles County

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EVENT CALENDAR

Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanic Garden 301 N. Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia 91007

For a list of seminars, work shops and classes,
please visit www.arboretum.org or call (626) 821-4623

Los Angeles County Museum of Art 5905 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles 90036 (323) 857-6000

www.lacma.org

Through Jan 9 – Renoir to Matisse: The Eye of Duncan Phillips
Through Jan 9 – Trajectories: The Photographic Work of Rebbert Flick

Through Jan 17 – Passion for Drawing: Poussin to Cezanne,
Works from the Prat Collection

Through Jan 30 – Luxury Textiles East and West: Opulent Interiors

Music Center 135 N. Grand Ave., Los Angeles 90012 (213) 972-7211 www.musiccenter.org

Dorothy Chandler Pavilion

Jan 22-Feb 13 – *Aida* (Giuseppe Verdi)

Jan 29-Feb 20 – *Romeo et Juliette* (Charles Gounod)

Walt Disney Concert Hall

151 S. Grand Ave., Los Angeles 90012

Dec 31 – Pink Martini

Jan 6 – Beethoven Cycle: 1, 2

Jan 7 – k.d. lang

Jan 8-9 – Beethoven Cycle: 3, 4

Jan 10 – Itzhak Perlman

Jan 11 – Green Umbrella: Salonen Premiere

Jan 13 – Beethoven Cycle: 2, 3

Jan 14-16 – Beethoven Cycle: 5

Jan 16 – Tetzlaff Plays Bach

Jan 19 – San Francisco Symphony (Mahler)

Jan 21 – First Nights: Schumann

Jan 22-23 – Grimaud Plays Schumann

Jan 24 – Edgar Meyer/Chris Thile

Jan 28 – Recital: Leif Ove Andsnes

Jan 29 – Toyota Symphony for Youth (11 a.m.)

Jan 29 – Jazz Mass (8 p.m.)

Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County 900 Exposition Blvd., Los Angeles (213) 763-3466

www.nhm.org

Through Jan 9 – L.A: light/motion/dreams

Fireworks Spectacular Greet the New Year in Marina del Rey

A brilliant display of fireworks will light up the skies over Marina del Rey on Friday, December 31, to greet the Year 2005. Beginning at the 30-second countdown to midnight, the fireworks will continue into the opening minutes of the New Year.

Zambelli Fireworks Internationale, which started business in Italy more than 100 years ago, will create the Marina del Rey Fireworks Spectacular. The famous fireworks can be viewed



throughout the Marina, however the best locations for viewing are Fisherman's Village located at 13755 Fiji Way, and Burton Chace Park at 13650 Mindanao Way. Parking is available for \$5 in County of Los Angeles lots throughout the Marina for the evening.

The Zambelli Fireworks Spectacular is presented by Supervisor Don Knabe and the Department of Beaches and Harbors. All County employees are invited to include the Marina del Rey Fireworks as part of their New Year's Eve celebrations.

County DIGEST

Articles and other submissions to the *County DIGEST* may be edited or otherwise altered for clarity.

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1-800-87-FRAUD

Supervisor Antonovich Dedicates Park in Memory of Fallen Deputy Hagop “Jake” Kuredjian

On Wednesday, October 6, Supervisor Antonovich attended the dedication ceremony for Kuredjian Park, created to honor the memory of Deputy Hagop “Jake” Kuredjian, who was shot and killed on August 31, 2001, while assisting Federal ATF agents who were attempting to serve a warrant on Santa Clarita resident James Allen Beck.

“It is appropriate to honor and remember Deputy Kuredjian by dedicating this family park in his name,” Supervisor Antonovich said. “We now have a beautiful open space recreational area with spectacular oak trees – a prefect setting for our community to gather and remember Jake’s contributions to the Santa Clarita Valley.”

“A 17-year veteran of the Sheriff’s Department and a resident of Newhall, Jake gave his life defending the residents of our valley and is mourned by many,” Supervisor Antonovich continued. “The first Sheriff’s deputy to die in the line of duty in the Santa Clarita Valley, he is remembered by his fellow officers as a smiling, easy-going officer who had just achieved his dream of becoming a motorcycle patrolman.”

“Jake was a hero and role model to this community. We will never forget the ultimate sacrifice that he made in protecting the citizens of our community,” Supervisor Antonovich added.



From left to right are District Attorney Steve Cooley, Sheriff Lee Baca, Greg Mc Williams (President of Newhall Land & Farming), Garo Kuredjian (Deputy Kuredjian’s brother), Mrs. Kuredjian (Deputy Kuredjian’s mother), Supervisor Antonovich, and Raffi Kuredjian (Deputy Kuredjian’s brother).

Employment Opportunity Hotline Numbers

24-hour Job Hotline Number

800-970-LIST (5478)

24-hour TTY

800-897-0077

TTY during County business hours

800-899-4099



“L. A. County Holiday Celebration” Presents a Kaleidoscope of Seasonal Traditions at the Music Center December 24

The 45th annual edition of the FREE, live six-hour show reflects the cultural mosaic of Los Angeles with performances by 40 groups.

Choirs, music ensembles, and dance companies reflecting the vibrant spectrum of cultures found in Southern California express the joy of the season in the 45th Annual L.A. County Holiday Celebration, 3-9 p.m., Friday, December 24 in the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion of the Music Center. The show is a gift from the Board of Supervisors to the community at large. Admission is FREE, as is the parking under the Music Center.

RETIREES

Congratulations to the following employees who are joining the ranks of the retired after 30 or more years of service to the people of the County of Los Angeles:

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER/WEIGHTS & MEASURES:

B L. Lewandowski

ASSESSOR: Rosa M. Mora

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS: Doris W. Rowe

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE: Martha A. Ruiz

CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES: Lewis R. Lowy, Geraldine Mathieu-Nola, Elaine B. McElhinney, Emma M. Montero, Bonnie J. Scales

COMMUNITY & SENIOR SERVICES: Myoung Cha, Lynda Shapiro

DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Stephen J. Ramirez

FIRE: Stephen G. Blair, David W. Daugherty, William A. Hood Jr., Michael E. Martin, Ronald J. Nixt, Swen L. Swenson, Robert C. Ward

HEALTH SERVICES: Margarita Anglin, Michael T. Coover, Olga O. Galvan, Jose Garcia, Dorothy Green, Mellonise Hayes, Gayle A. Hayner, Clifton M. Johnson, Joyclyn Johnson, Evelyn A. Morgan, Fannie M. Morrow, Maria Quilan, Faye Robertson, Katherine Singleton, Melinda Vigil, Claudette Walker, Lucy A. White, Helen M. Williams

HUMAN RESOURCES/OFFICE OF PUBLIC SAFETY:

Fernando L. Perez

MENTAL HEALTH: Estela Polio

MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS: Robert L. Clayton

PROBATION: Marsha G. Glasgall, Edward E. Reid, Richard M. Saenz, Richard N. Shumsky, Reginald Streetz, Juanita Williams

PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Gloria Broom, Spencer J. Crump, Margaret A. Feagin, Hazel Gardina, Julia Lujan

PUBLIC WORKS: Ellen R. Allen, Joe E. Brown, Joseph M. Gonzalez, Henry Hovakimian, Richard D. Parker

SHERIFF: Harry G. Bovie, Peter Duran, Roger K. Hom, Nick J. Ortega, Jerome W. Schmiedeke, William J. Smith, Mark L. Winters

SUPERIOR COURT: Mary K. Bilodeau, Eleanor L. Minter, Rosemary Padilla

TREASURER & TAX COLLECTOR: Juanita Jackson

Congratulations to the following employees who are joining the ranks of the retired after 25 or more years of service to the people of the County of Los Angeles:

ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL: Bruce P. Richards

AUDITOR-CONTROLLER: Zoraida M. Pepito

CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES: Isaac Bennett Jr., Clarence Frelix, Linda Rice

DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Delia Zambrano

FIRE: Vernon L. Thompson, Frank E. Turner

HEALTH SERVICES: William Brown, Gloria Cubangbang, Jose L. Garcia, Pearl L. Hardaway-Gar

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Joint Labor-Management Committee on Office Ergonomics (a collaborative effort of County management and SEIU, Local 660), Phil fully supports the Committee's efforts to educate County employees on the importance of good workplace design. He was instrumental in producing the Committee's widely distributed educational booklet, "Working Safely with Computers." He has coordinated the Committee's participation in the County of Los Angeles Wellness Fairs for the past several years, and its biannual sponsorship of the Office Ergonomics Vendor Fair.

Phil serves on the Department of Public Social Services' Labor-Management Ergonomic Advisory Committee, advising it on instituting its ergonomic program. In introducing the program to the Department, he trained over 150 of their ergonomic coordinators to recognize and understand the need for good office design. Over the years, Phil has trained over 3,000 employees on health and safety topics, including computer ergonomics. During his career, one of his fondest memories is having had the opportunity to meet with many different County employees and learning that teamwork, respect and kindness goes a long way in making the County a better place for all.

Phil serves on the Executive Board of the Los Angeles County Asian American Employees Association (LACAAEA). He has been an active member since 1976, and served as the President of the Association during 1981-82. In recognition of

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Supervisor Molina Dedicates East L.A. Library

Supervisor Gloria Molina dedicated the County's first state-of-the-art library built in an unincorporated area in 40 years on October 23. Supervisor Molina was joined by actors Cheech Marin and Tony Plana in addition to artist José Antonio Aguirre and hundreds of East L.A. residents.

"I am delighted to see so many people from our community, who have come here today to join us for this significant event," Supervisor Molina said. "This comprehensive, top-notch facility celebrates our community's pride in education, literacy, and cultural heritage."

The new 26,300 foot library is vibrantly colored and architecturally dynamic. Aguirre's monumental mosaic cycle mural entitled "Our Legacy: Forever Presente" functions as the centerpiece and is a visual tribute to East L.A.'s proud heritage, which is comprised in large part of socio-political struggle. The gigantic mosaic covers over 2,000 square feet of wall space. Byzantine and Venetian glass and limestone on the west and east towers of the library's main entrance depict four movements: The Gift of Humanity; Arrival; The Heart of the People; and Departure.

Throughout the cycle, iconic images represent significant East L.A. public leaders, social and political figures, actors, artists, and athletes including actor/activist Edward James Olmos; U.S. Congressman Esteban Torres; U.S. Congressman Edward Roybal; United Farm Workers Co-Founders César E. Chávez and Dolores Huerta; Los Angeles Times journalists Rubén Salazar; muralist David Alfaro Siqueiros; Self-Help Graphics Founder Sister Karen Bockalero; actor Anthony Quinn; civil rights lawyer Antonia Hernández; Supervisor Molina; and boxer Oscar de la Hoya.

MOLINA

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Supervisor Molina and retired Congressman Esteban Torres view artwork on display at the official opening of the East L.A. library.

The library's opening marked another significant milestone in Supervisor Molina's East Los Angeles Civic Center Renovation Project and pioneered a new trend in urban planning that currently is transforming the East L.A. landscape.

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his commitment and dedicated service to the Association, Ow was presented with two awards in 2002, including a Certificate of Recognition from the California State Senate and Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition from the U.S. House of Representatives.

Believing that it is better to give than to receive, Phil's way of giving back to the community, church, and helping those less fortunate is through volunteerism. "Let's all work together to make the County and our community a better place for the present and future generations," says Ow.

Having graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in geography from San Fernando Valley State College in Northridge, Ow also holds a Master of Science degree in environmental health from California State University, Northridge. For his current position, he maintains certification in various aspects of asbestos abatement. He enjoys traveling, photography, cooking and spending time with his wife, Lily, and their two sons, Gregory and Geoffrey. As proud and supportive parents, Phil says "we feel both boys are a blessing to our lives since they provide so much happiness and joy."

For your many accomplishments and dedicated service to the County, a heartfelt congratulations Phillip Ow!

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"

ENRICHING LIVES...

Holiday Spirit Around the County of Los Angeles

Public Works

Each year, employees of the Department of Public Works give generously to help fellow Public Works employees in need, through the Holiday Care Fund. The program began many years ago with field employees who decided to contribute to a fund to help deserving coworkers in lieu of buying holiday cards for each other. From there, the program expanded to include all of Public Works.

The purpose of the Holiday Care Fund is to give a helping hand to coworkers we see and work with every day who are experiencing personal and/or financial hardships. Examples of people who have been helped in the past include employees diagnosed with cancer, employees who have lost a child or other family member, employees caring for a terminally ill or disabled dependent, and employees who have suffered financial hardships such as a stolen car or burned down house.



Public Works: The Holiday Care Fund Committee from left to right Suzi Farrell, True Ann Pawluk, Don Wolfe, Interim Director, Mary Lopez, and Lorraine Boyd

***Fire Department
Project Playhouse***

***Internal Services Department
Toy Loan Program***

Last year, employees donated over \$8,000 with which we gave 18 baskets filled with enough food to feed a family of four a holiday's dinner. The baskets included a turkey, ham, dinner rolls, stuffing, vegetables, potatoes, apples, and cider. Additionally, grocery gift certificates ranging from \$100 to \$500 were provided. Amazingly, every year, employees give more money than the year before thereby increasing the amount given to deserving coworkers.

In addition to the Holiday Care Fund, Public Works participates in the SEIU Local 660 Toy Drive and this year, the Department is also donating to the Treats for the Troops campaign to send holiday packages to our brave soldiers.

Fire Department Project Playhouse:

Victorian Firehouse Built to Benefit Homeless

County firefighters from Fire Station 126 in Valencia volunteered to custom build a playhouse for charity. The Victorian-style firehouse, complete with two operable bell towers, brass fire pole, tiny turnouts and helmets, was auctioned at the House of Blues on October 17, 2004, for \$21,000, to benefit HomeAid, a charity program that provides temporary shelter for Los Angeles and Ventura County homeless.

Internal Services Department

Internal Services Department (ISD) employees spark up their holiday spirit each year at home, their work site, and beyond. This holiday spirit extends beyond decorations and yummy treats as many employees participate in community charitable efforts to help those in need. For many years, this has included toy drives, food drives, adopt-a-family participation, and a holiday craft fair for the charitable giving campaign.

Each December, ISD supports DPSS' Toy Loan Program by collecting many, many wonderful new toys such as bikes, cars, dolls, legos, games, and stuffed animals. These toys augment the toy supply DPSS will have available to children of disadvantaged families during the holiday season.

This year employees will also have the opportunity to support the Bienvenidos Children's Center in Altadena by brightening the holidays for these traumatized children, ages 6-months to 8 years, who need specialized care to heal and effectively reduce their risk of further harm while under the protection of Juvenile Dependency Court. Interested employees will be providing holiday gifts or contributions to support the children of Bienvenidos Children's Center.

Happy Holidays from ISD!

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"



County of Los Angeles VISION

Our *purpose* is to improve the quality of life in Los Angeles County by providing responsive, efficient and high quality public services that promote the self-sufficiency, well-being and prosperity of individuals, families, businesses and communities.

Our *philosophy* of teamwork and collaboration is anchored in our *shared values*:

- **A can-do attitude** - we approach each challenge believing that, together, a solution can be achieved.
- **Accountability** - we accept responsibility for the decisions we make and the actions we take.
- **Compassion** - we treat those we serve and each other with kind and caring manner.
- **Commitment** - we always go the extra mile to achieve our mission.
- **Integrity** - we act consistent with our values.
- **Professionalism** - we perform to a high standard of excellence.
- **Respect for diversity** - we value the uniqueness of every individual and their perspective.
- **Responsiveness** - we take the action needed in a timely manner.

Our *position* as the premier organization for those working in the public interest is established by:

- a capability to undertake programs that have public value;
- an aspiration to be recognized through our achievements as the model for civic innovation; and a pledge to always work to earn the public trust.



HOLIDAY TIPS

Holiday Safety Tips from the Fire Department

1. Do not buy a dry Christmas tree.
2. Never put a tree near a fireplace or heater.
3. Do not throw any kind of wrapping paper into the fireplace.
4. Never burn your tree in a fireplace.
5. Use caution when using candles.
6. Check Christmas lights before you use them. (Never use lights that have a frayed cord or missing light bulbs.)
7. Turn off all Christmas lights prior to leaving your home.
8. Extinguish candles before you leave a room, your home and when you go to bed.
9. Get rid of your Christmas tree, before it becomes brittle or before January 1st.
10. Make sure your Christmas tree has plenty of water and has not been placed too close to a heat source or anything that gives off sparks.
11. Know how to call 9-1-1 or your local seven digit emergency number.
12. Know how to "STOP, DROP and ROLL."
13. Make sure you have smoke detectors. Change the batteries once a year during the month of October when you change your clocks.
14. If you have a fireplace, make sure you have a spark arrestor.
15. Place a screen around your fireplace when it's in use.



Have a Happy Holiday Season from the Fire Department!

County Libraries Offer Holiday Programs



Creating candy houses is a popular holiday craft at Rowland Heights Library. The CSF Club of Diamond Bar High School co-sponsors the event with the library.

The community libraries of the Public Library celebrate the holidays with a variety of programs for children and families. Winter, Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanza – all the special days of December are highlighted with stories, crafts, and performers.

Call your local County library for scheduling information. Or visit the County Library's Web site at www.colapublib.org, and click on the "Calendar and Events" button. Program dates, times, and descriptions are listed by library.



Christmas Tree Recycling

Pine Tree Air Fresheners just aren't the same

Do you long for the fresh piney scent of a live tree at Christmas, but worry about getting rid of it afterward? Follow these quick and easy steps to enjoy the benefits of curbside Christmas tree recycling!

- Remove all items from your tree. Trees over six feet must be cut in half.
- Place your tree at curbside on your regular trash collection day from December 27 through January 15.
- Watch as your tree is collected for recycling by your friendly neighborhood waste hauler.

For more information and Christmas tree recycling guidelines for your area of residence, call 1(888) CLEAN LA or visit 888CleanLA.com.

**Happy Holidays
from the
Department of Public Works!**





Tips for Keeping Pets Safe this Holiday Season

The holiday season, a joy-filled time for many people, poses some risks for pets. Here are a few tips from the Department of Animal Care and Control to keep you and your pets safe during the holidays:

- Never feed or let pets eat chocolate or other holiday season candies. Chocolate is poisonous to dogs and cats and can cause vomiting, diarrhea, and even death. If you see or suspect your pet of eating chocolate, get him or her to a veterinarian right away for treatment.
- Shiny ornaments on Christmas trees can be particularly attractive to curious pets. Dogs and cats can suffer serious and even fatal injuries by chewing and swallowing pieces of tree ornaments. Make sure your pets cannot reach any ornaments in your home.



- Many people add special liquid preservatives to the water in Christmas tree stands. Some of these products are harmful to pets that may take a drink from the water. Be sure to ask if a Christmas tree preservative is “pet safe” before you buy it.

- Keep holiday season plants and flowers away from your pets. Many plants, such as Poinsettias, Christmas candles, English Holly, Christmas Berry, Christmas Rose and Mistletoe are poisonous to dogs and cats.
- Gift-wrappings can also pose risks to dogs and cats. Your pets may be tempted to chew on wrapping paper or ribbon, and these can be very harmful if swallowed. Also, don’t let your pets play in or around trash bags used to discard holiday wrappings.
- Electrical wiring can prove tempting for cats to play with and dogs to chew on. Your pet can suffer a severe shock or even be electrocuted by coming into contact with the electrical current in the line. Make sure your pets cannot reach or climb onto areas that put wiring in their reach.
- Turkey is a particular favorite during the holiday season, but the bones easily splinter and should not be given to pets. Bone splinters can puncture an animal’s gastro-intestinal tract, causing serious internal injury, which could result in death.
- Keep your pets away from alcoholic drinks. The holiday season traditionally features a wide variety of specialty drinks such as eggnog. These are not good for family pets. Don’t let anyone offer a “sample” of your favorite libation to a pet.
- Remember, your pets during the holiday season. Be sure to pick out a new tag or other present for your pets. It makes them feel a part of the family, including them in the festivities and gives them something to do while family members are opening presents. Pet stores feature a wide variety of toys that are specially designed for your dogs and cat.

**The Department of Animal Care and Control
wishes you and your pets a safe and happy holiday season!**

RETIREES

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MENTAL HEALTH: Judith M. Winkler

PUBLIC DEFENDER: Mark E. Gilbert

PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Graciela Biancardi

SHERIFF: Rudy Campos, Rene J. Devusser, III, Randy S. Selenak, Rosa Vasquez

SUPERIOR COURT: Christine Garcia, Cheryl A. Pyles, Rose M. Williams

TREASURER & TAX COLLECTOR: Betty M. Eggleston, Gladys Hopkins

“To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service”

implemented, the County's workers' compensation program has already experienced cost avoidance and a reduction in the number of new claims. The County of Los Angeles reduced its actual FY 2003-2004 workers' compensation expense to \$324 million from the budgeted \$352 million, and also anticipates decreasing the FY 2004-2005 workers' compensation budget by at least \$30.5 million.

Since joining the Board of Supervisors, I have promoted efforts to enhance accountability for the services we provide to County residents and to develop quality data to substantiate progress made in achieving desired community results and outcomes. One of the key initiatives in this regard was my motion adopted by the Board directing the CAO and several other departments to develop an annual "report card" of indicators for key County services, demonstrating the impact that County services are having on the quality of life for the constituents we serve.

The County Progress Report issued last month, reflects a wide array of key indicators concerning critical public service issues as prenatal care, adoptions, child abuse and neglect, crime and arrest rates, quality of county roads, and recreational and cultural programs. I hope this new annual progress report will be a guide to what government is doing well and where we can do better.

Despite this challenging year, we do have some very special successes and good news to celebrate. The Safe Surrender Law once again save innocent lives and the number of baby abandonment decreased this year. In total, we have saved 28 babies lives since we started the Safe Surrender Program in Los Angeles County.

This year we also dedicated the new shell at the Hollywood Bowl and the organ at the Walt Disney Concert Hall. In less than 12 months, the County provided two new cultural venues for the people of Los Angeles County, helping to showcase the County as a new international cultural Mecca.

I hope that the challenges of this past year have made us stronger as we look forward to a new year. Happy Holidays and Happy New Year.

Supervisor Antonovich Presides Over Open House at San Fernando Mental Health Center

On Monday, October 18, Supervisor Antonovich delivered remarks at a ceremony celebrating the relocation and expansion of San Fernando Mental Health Center. He was joined by Dr. Marvin Southard (right), Director of the Department of Mental Health; Wendy Tovey (left), new director of San Fernando Mental Health Center; and Fernando Escarcega (second from right), the Center's former director.



"This is a terrific new facility that will be instrumental in improving and saving lives and helping families," Supervisor Antonovich said.

In addition to providing comprehensive mental health and substance abuse services, the new larger facility treats more than 2,300 clients. It also has a spacious classroom with a teacher on site offering English as a Second Language (ESL) and assistance obtaining Graduate Equivalency Diplomas (GED). There is a specified area for return-to-work programming with a rehabilitation coordinator on site, and a children and family's program that has grown from eight to over 100 clients in the past six months.

With only a handful of clients, San Fernando Mental Health Center opened its doors over 30 years ago in a trailer near the San Fernando Mission. Two of the original staff – Maria Panduro and Alex Sanchez – still work at the Center and have been the recipients of the County of Los Angeles "Employee of the Year" award.

Supervisor Burke Hosts 12th Annual Turkey Giveaways

Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke traveled to several locations in the Second District to present more than 700 turkeys to senior citizens and community organizations for the Thanksgiving holiday. The turkeys were donated by corporate sponsors, including the Southern California Water Company, Superior Warehouse, the Dominguez Water Company, Ralphs, Gigante, R Ranch Market, and a group of private investigators led by businessman Gene Kim.

Senior citizens gathered at centers in Florence-Firestone, East Rancho Dominguez, Willowbrook and Lennox. The atmosphere was festive as they exchanged vouchers for frozen turkeys in white plastic carrying bags that were handed out by Supervisor Burke and County personnel.

Nearly 600 seniors received turkeys and the remaining turkeys were donated to community-based organizations that had asked to receive leftovers. The organizations included the Carson Women's Club, the City of Lynwood senior lunch program, the Imperial Courts residents association, the Greater True Light Mission Church, WLCAC and numerous others.

Supervisor Burke said, "I really appreciate the continuing support of our sponsors. Their generosity makes it possible for people who might otherwise be overlooked to join in the fun of the holiday season."



Supervisor Burke shared a laugh with a delighted recipient at the Florence-Firestone Senior Center.

Supervisor Burke stopped to chat as she passed out turkeys at the East Rancho Dominguez Senior Center.



Supervisor Yaroslavsky Tours New Prototype Metro Liner

Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky (*right*) and Los Angeles City Councilmember Tom LaBonge give "thumbs up" to a new prototype Metro Liner, a stylish addition to the MTA's bus fleet

scheduled to be running in 2005 along the San Fernando Valley Metro Orange Line busway and throughout the region on other high-volume transit routes. The articulated buses, specially designed by North American Bus



Industries, run quietly on clean-burning compressed natural gas, are 50% longer at 60 ft. than conventional buses, and can carry 57 passengers, 45% more than current models – yet the highly maneuverable vehicles actually boast a tighter turning radius. The MTA has ordered 200 of these vehicles, 22 of which will ferry passengers on the 14-mile Orange Line between North Hollywood and Warner Center. For more information on the new bus, please visit the MTA Web site at www.mta.net.

MOLINA

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The library – designed by architect Stephen Finney of Charles Walton Associates – functions as a community learning and cultural center. The facility offers indoor and outdoor spaces for reading, studying, and socializing. The children's area features a "story time tower" while the Homework Center serves as a focal point for young adults. The library also contains computer and group study rooms with Internet access; a book store; a community meeting room (with a view of Belvedere Lake); the only Chicano Resource Center in California; art display spaces; patio and terrace areas; and walkways with access to park areas.

"This library is beautiful, a true point of pride for our community," Supervisor Molina said. "It will be enjoyed for generations to come."



Share It

Credit Reports

Getting and Understanding Your Free Credit Report



The information in your credit report is very important. It affects how much you are charged for a loan or credit, or whether you can get a loan at all. It can also cause you to be denied insurance, an apartment, or even a job. You should review the information in your report at least once a year to make sure it is correct.

How do I get a copy of my credit report, and how much does it cost?

You have the right to get a free copy of your report every 12 months from each of the three main credit-reporting agencies: **Equifax**, **Experian**, and **Trans Union**.

You can get your credit report on the Internet at www.annualcreditreport.com. You can also get it by calling 877-322-8228, or writing to Annual Credit Report Request Service, P.O. Box 105281, Atlanta, GA 30348-5281. You can ask for reports from all three credit-reporting agencies at one time, or order them one by one over 12 months. You should check all three reports, since the information may not be the same.

What information do I need to give credit reporting agencies to get my credit report?

You will have to tell them your name, birth date, Social Security number, and address. If you have moved in the past two years, you will have to give them your old address too. They may also ask for information only you know to make sure you are the right person.

What type of information should I look for in my credit report?

Make sure that your personal information is correct, including your name, Social Security number, birth date, address and employer. If you are married, make sure your spouse's information is correct too. If the report says you owe money, make sure that the amount and company you owe it to are correct. Check that the accounts listed are yours, and that the payment history and account balances are right.

How can I fix wrong information in my credit report?

Both the credit reporting agencies and the person or company who gave them the wrong information are responsible for correcting it. To fix wrong information, send a letter to the credit-reporting agency by Certified Mail, return receipt requested. The letter should include the following information, and you should keep a copy for your records:

- The information you think is wrong.
- The name of the person or company that sent the information to the credit-reporting agency.
- Copies, not originals, of any papers, receipts, cancelled checks or anything else that will prove that what you say is true.

What do credit-reporting agencies have to do when I tell them about mistakes?

They must start investigating your claim and notify the person or business that sent them the wrong information within 5 days from the date they received your dispute. They must complete their investigation and correct any wrong information within 30 days from the date they receive your dispute. Within 5 days after they finish their investigation, they must send you a copy of the corrected credit report.

If their investigation concludes that the information you are disputing is correct, they must tell you why within 5 days from the date they finish their investigation. If you disagree with their explanation, you can ask them to include a paragraph of up to 100 words telling your side of the story. You can also dispute the information directly with the person or business that reported it. If you still cannot resolve the problem, please contact the Department of Consumer Affairs at (213) 974-1452 for more information and help.

WARNING!

- You do not have to buy anything to get your free credit report.
- You should not respond to e-mail messages and offers asking for your personal information in order to get your free credit report.



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